

Hobbies

U. S. commemorative coin will salute Mount Rushmore

By Roger Boye

Both houses of Congress have approved legislation calling for 1991-dated commemorative coins honoring the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, all but assuring the launch of Uncle Sam's eighth commemorative coin program in ten years.

Earlier this month the U.S. House passed a bill that authorizes production of a copper-nickel half dollar, silver dollar and \$5 gold coin to mark Mount Rushmore's 50th anniversary. The national memorial in South Dakota features the busts of four presidents carved into stone.

The Senate approved a slightly different version of the bill late last year and soon may endorse the House bill, according to a congressional aide. Then the legislation would go to President Bush for signature.

Rushmore coins would be sold as collectibles—rather than used as “spending money”—with some of the profits from sales supporting efforts to improve the memorial.

Also in mid-May, the House approved legislation authorizing a



A 1991 commemorative coin honoring the Mount Rushmore National Memorial is included in legislation approved by Congress.

1991 silver dollar commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Service Organizations, which assist military personnel and their families. That bill has yet to be considered in the Senate.

Other proposals in Congress would mandate:

- 1991-dated coins commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights;

- 1992-dated coins marking the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus; and

- 1993-dated coins honoring U. S. participation in World War

II, with profits from coin sales supporting construction of a memorial, in Washington, D. C., to U. S. soldiers who served in the war.

Also, a congressional aide said on May 18 that Rep. Richard H. Lehman, D-Calif., soon would introduce legislation authorizing special coins commemorating the 1992 Olympic Games to help raise money for the training of U. S. athletes. Uncle Sam ran similar programs in 1984 and 1988.

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One of the most clever coin designs of the last decade has won “Coin of the Year” honors in an international competition spon-

sored by Krause Publications of Iola, Wis.

The Albanian coin features a semicircular hole representing a tunnel and on each side depicts a train emerging from the tunnel. Albanian officials issued the 50-leke silver coin to honor the 42nd anniversary of nationalized railroads in the Balkan nation.

Krause will present the award next month at ceremonies in London. The 60-person judging panel included mintmasters, coin marketers and other hobby experts.

Albania is the first Communist-bloc country to win the award in the seven-year-old annual competition.